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the Colinian

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Dr. Jane Hulon
Co-Lin's
Eighth President

the Colinian

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Anna Grider,
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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or students.

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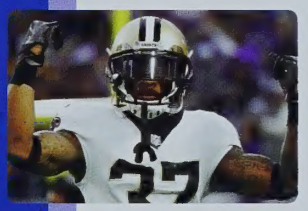

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ON THE COVER: The eighth president of the college, Dr. Jane G. Hulon. Photo by Scarlett Hart

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Graphic design by Jimmie Cain

From the President | Dr. Jane G. Hulon

Hello Alumni and Friends,

I am thrilled to be serving as the eighth president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Becoming a college president has been a career goal of mine for quite some time, and it is an honor and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to achieve this leadership goal at Co-Lin by serving in a presidential capacity. As I have prepared to occupy the president's office, I have been quick to recognize my good fortune in following such phenomenal leaders in Dr. Ronnie Nettles, Dr. Howell Garner, and Dr. Billy Thames. These leaders have maintained a tradition of excellence for the institution upon which I plan to build. I am truly grateful for their support.

The new school year brings with it a great deal of excitement. I recently shared with the faculty and staff at the Fall Convocation one of my favorite quotes from John Maxwell, "Change is inevitable. Growth is optional." It is my desire to see Co-Lin grow and prosper, and I will do everything within my power to see that institutional growth occurs under my watch.

I have a full agenda this year consisting of expanding and improving opportunities for students, employees, facilities, economic development, and fundraising. The college is already making such progress in each of these areas; however, there is much work to be done.

I have had the opportunity to address numerous audiences during my first two months in office. I have been able to brag about the many accomplishments of our college, our faculty/staff, and our students. I have shared with anyone who would listen that within Mississippi's two-year college system, Co-Lin is not the biggest institution or the smallest institution , but I am a firm believer that Co-Lin is the best institution.

Thank you for your support and dedication. Co-Lin is an incredibly special place. It is an especially exciting time to be affiliated with Copiah-Lincoln Community College. It is — without a doubt— The Place to Be!

Sincerely,
Jane G. Hulon, Ph.D.

Jane G. Hulon

From the Executive Director | Angela Furr

Hello Alumni and Friends!

I am greeting you for the first time as interim executive director of the Co-Lin Foundation and Alumni Relations; however, I hope I am no stranger to most of you. I have been working at Co-Lin for the past 13 years, and working specifically with our alumni association for the past nine years. We are in a season of transition here at Co-Lin, with Dr. Hulon as our new president, other staff changes at the college, and the foundation/alumni office is no different. I am excited to welcome Anna Grider as our new assistant director. She has experience in college alumni relations and fundraising, and has already brought a fresh take and new ideas to the table in her first month on the job. I know you will enjoy getting to meet her soon. You can read more about Anna on the next page.

Homecoming is just around the corner on Oct. 26-27, and I hope to see you all there this year as we celebrate the 90th birthday of Copiah-Lincoln Community College. We are looking forward to recognizing our outstanding alumni, inducting a new class into our Sports Hall of Fame, and most of all, visiting with all of you. As a college student and in my early career at Co-Lin working with students, I always thought Homecoming was about and for students- the activities, the coronation, the ballgame, etc. However, former alumni director and my dear friend, the late Charlotte Hill quickly taught me that Homecoming is about alumni. Without all of you, it would just be a ballgame.

We're so excited to see you back on campus this year. I hope you'll be delighted to see the improvements on campus, and that you'll pick up on all of our enthusiasm as we embark on a new year of change and growth here at Co-Lin. We are proud of how far we've come in the past 90 years, and the future is bright. We always have been and still are The Place to Be!

Angela D. Furr
Class of 2002

Co-Lin Foundation and Alumni Office Staff Changes

The Copiah-Lincoln Community College office of Foundation and Alumni Relations is pleased to announce the promotion of Angela Furr of Brookhaven as interim executive director and the hiring of Anna Grider of Brookhaven as assistant director.

Furr has been employed at the college since 2005, serving four years as college recruiter and nine years as associate director of alumni affairs. She has also served as an adjunct instructor in the humanities division for more than 10 years. In her previous role in alumni affairs, Furr produced alumni and foundation publications, coordinated special events such as Homecoming, and served as the liaison between alumni and the college. In her new role, she will oversee all foundation and alumni relations of the college with a primary focus on fundraising.

Furr is a 2002 graduate of Co-Lin, and holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and a master's degree in mass communication from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a member of the Brookhaven/Lincoln County Rotary Club, United Way of Lincoln County Board of Directors, the Co-Lin and University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Associations, the Mississippi Community College Inter-Alumni Association, and Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, where she serves in the children's ministry. She is a past recipient of the Howell C. Garner High Performance Award and the Phi Theta Kappa Go Getter Award at Co-Lin. She is married to Cliff Furr and has two children, Amelia and Graham.

Furr

Grider

Grider comes to Co-Lin from the University of South Carolina where she served on staff with Reformed University Fellowship. She was responsible for fundraising and marketing for the organization, as well as advising a group of young women at the university. She received a bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism management and marketing from Appalachian State University in North Carolina in 2015 where she was a graduate of the University Honors College and the Walker College of Business Honors Program. She was recognized as most outstanding student in Hospitality and Tourism Management and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. Grider was recently married to Tim Grider, who serves as youth minister at Faith Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven.

Letter to Alumni and Friends | Brandi Irvin Hough

I am honored to greet you as I enter my second year as your alumni president. This has been an exciting year with a lot of new changes. I am very excited to celebrate our new president Dr. Jane Hulon and look forward to her leadership. We've had several staff changes within our Foundation/Alumni Relations Division. I am truly enjoying working with Angela Furr in her role as interim executive director and Anna Grider who has filled the position of assistant director.

I am very excited about Homecoming as the Wolves take on Southwest Mississippi Community College on Saturday, October 27th. There is something for everyone to enjoy on Homecoming such as the alumni luncheon, the tailgate party, and more. Let me extend an invitation to each of you to return to Co-Lin for some special alumni groups and reunions that will be held. This year any class that ends in '8 is encouraged to get together with their classmates. A preview of Homecoming events can be found on the Co-Lin website and I encourage you to continue to check the link to get homecoming details as they are developed. If you need help finding out about events or if you want to plan a reunion, please contact the alumni office at 601-643-8498.

Your participation in the Co-Lin Alumni Association is greatly appreciated. I trust that as alumni we all value and reflect on our special memories while at Co-Lin. I hope that what began for you at Co-Lin can now be a lifetime relationship. Please join me by continuing to support Co-Lin through your time, your efforts and most of all by joining the Alumni Association and paying alumni dues.

Stay informed and engaged with Co-Lin by visiting the website at http://www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @CoLinAlumni. I hope to see you at Co-Lin in October!

Sincerely,
Brandi Irvin Hough
Co-Lin Alumni Association President
Class of '05

Athletics News | Meleah Howard named Co-Lin softball head coach

A familiar face is returning to take the reins of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Lady Wolves softball program. Former Lady Wolf Meleah Howard, a 2008 graduate, has been tapped to take over the Lady Wolves from longtime coach Allen Kent. Howard was a member of the Lady Wolves team that finished in second place at the NJCAA National Tournament in 2008.

"Meleah is a high energy coach that is always looking for a challenge," said Co-Lin Athletic Director Bryan Nobile. "She has the willingness to sell our program and go above and beyond to get the players that we need to continue our winning tradition, and help take the program to new heights."

After Co-Lin, Howard continued her education at Mississippi State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in elementary education with a minor in mathematics and science. While at Mississippi State she coached the Southern Ice travel team out of Wesson and served as assistant softball coach at East Webster High School.

After completing her degree in 2010 Howard was promoted to head coach at East Webster of both the fast and slow pitch programs. She also taught middle school science, algebra, and algebra II.

In July of 2012, Howard landed the head coaching position at Lawrence County High School in Monticello for both the fast and slow pitch teams.

This past season, her sixth year at the helm, Howard led the Lady Cougars to a 31-4 overall record and runners-up in the MHSAA 4A State Championship. During her tenure with the Lady Cougars, she earned a district title in either slow or fast pitch each year.

Howard has amassed eight years of coaching experience and slated a 315-99 career coaching record with playoff runs in all eight seasons including 2A state runners-up at East Webster in 2011 and last season's run with the Lady Cougars.

"As an alum, I am very honored for the opportunity that I have been given to coach at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Co-Lin softball is known for its winning tradition and I am looking forward to taking it to the highest level," said Howard.

She and her husband, Marc, are the parents of two sons, Jack (4) and Hayes (10 months).

Wolf Pack CO-LIN

BACK THE PACK

2018 FALL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Aug. 30	Holmes	Goodman, MS	6:30
Sept. 6	Northeast	Booneville, MS	6:30
Sept. 13	Pearl River	Home (True Blue)	7:00
Sept. 20	Northwest	Home (Whiteout)	7:00
Sept. 27	Gulfcoast	Perkinston, MS	7:00
Oct. 4	ECCC	Decatur, MS	6:30
Oct. 11	Hinds	Home (Breast Cancer Awareness)	7:00
Oct. 20	Jones	Ellisville, MS	2:00
Oct. 27	Southwest	Homecoming	3:00

Hennington takes reigns of Co-Lin golf team

Craig Hennington, a Wesson native, takes over the Co-Lin the golf team in 2018 as the head coach after serving as a volunteer assistant for 11 seasons. He is a Co-Lin graduate where he was a member of the golf team. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi before earning his master's degree from William Carey College in mathematics.

Hennington served as the head golf coach at Sumrall Attendance Center in 1995, and from 1997 to 1999 he served as the head junior high and the assistant high school football coach at Enterprise Attendance Center.

Hennington has served as a mathematics instructor at Co-Lin since 2000 and was the recipient of the Ann Bradberry Award which is presented to a faculty, staff, or instructor of the college who the students feel have made an extra effort to assist students. He has also served as the past president of the Wolf Hollow Golf Association.

"I'm really looking forward to a great season," Hennington said. "We have some talented sophomores returning in Lucas Brewer, Bryce Chapman, and Cameron Little, and I'm expecting a lot of leadership out of these players. We also have seven incoming freshman that have already shown tremendous potential."

Athletics News | Alumni Spotlights

Mike Jones ('73), former Co-Lin basketball coach, was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in July. While coaching at Co-Lin, Jones won 112 games and lost only 20 over four seasons. He went on to coach at Mississippi College for 16 seasons and is entering his 15th season as athletic director. Jones played both basketball and baseball for Co-Lin and was inducted into the 1996 Sports Hall of Fame Class. He was also recognized as Alumnus of the Year in 1985.

Arthur Maulet ('15) was signed by the New Orleans Saints in the 2017 NFL Draft. Maulet played cornerback during his time at Co-Lin. He went on to play for the University of Memphis and is entering his second year with the Saints as a cornerback.

Carlos Funchess ('89) was announced as the head women's basketball coach at Southern University after serving as the longtime assistant coach. He was on the men's basketball team at Co-Lin and will be inducted into the college's Sports Hall of Fame at Homecoming.

Caroline Lumpkin ('15) is the new assistant women's basketball coach at Pearl River Community College. Lumpkin played for Co-Lin from 2013-15 and helped lead the pack to a MACJC State Championship in 2015. She was also named to the Who's Who Among National Junior Colleges.

Thomas Scully, former baseball player at Co-Lin ('91) was announced as the new head softball coach and assistant football coach for Holy Savior Menard High School in Alexandria, LA. He will also serve as the Director of Athletic Facilities along with teaching classes.

2018 Homecoming Schedule of Events

October 26-27, 2018

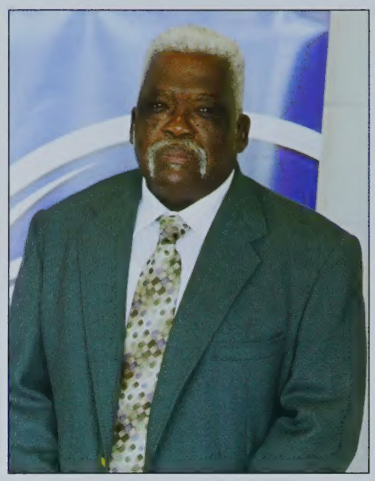
Friday, October 26, 2018

Noon	Homecoming Golf Tournament sponsored by Co-Lin Golf Team
2:30 p.m.	Welding Lab Dedication in honor of Bruce Irvin
5:00 p.m.	President's reception honoring former Phi Beta Lambda members- Evelyn Oswalt Library

Saturday, October 27, 2018

7:30 a.m.	Big Wolf 5K Walk/Run- Stone Stadium
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	General Registration, J. M. Ewing Administration Building
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Sports Hall of Fame induction & annual business meeting of the Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association – Rea Auditorium, Ewing Administration Building
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Band/Colette Alumni Chapter Hall of Fame & Outstanding Young Alumni induction & annual business meeting – Taylor Chapel
11:00 a.m.	Co-Lin Alumni Association Awards Luncheon and annual business meeting– Cafeteria, Henley Building
12:30-2:00 p.m.	Tailgate Party: Food, music, children's games and activities, pep rally featuring the Blue Wave Show Band and cheerleaders- Center Campus
1:00 p.m.	Reunions- Classes that end in '8- under the tents @ tailgate party; 2008 Softball Team; Class of 1964- Henley Building, H-2; Class of 1958- Faculty Dining Room
2:30 p.m.	Pre-Game Ceremonies – Stone Stadium
3:00 p.m.	Football Game – Co-Lin vs. Southwest– Stone Stadium

Foundation News | Foundation Board elects new officers



Andrew Calvit of Natchez is the new president of the board of directors of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation. He follows Larry Greer of Madison. Other officers are Sammye Burris of Brookhaven, vice-president; Dr. Sherry Pippen of Monticello, secretary; and Charles Hart of Wesson, treasurer.

Calvit is a 1976 graduate of Co-Lin. He received a bachelor's degree from The University of Southern Mississippi and an MBA from Alcorn State University. He retired from Atmos Energy after 36 years where he worked as an operations supervisor and was awarded the Atmos Energy Rising Star Award. Calvit also served in the U.S. Army and received recognition as the Outstanding Soldier of the Quarter. Calvit is active in many community and civic organizations and has also served as president of the Habitat for Humanity Natchez chapter. He has been honored as Citizen of the Year and received the Natchezian Award. He has two daughters, Felecia Lyles and Andrea Denise Calvit.

Burris graduated from Co-Lin in 1987 and later attended The University of Mississippi School of Banking. She currently works as a loan officer and executive vice president at United Mississippi Bank. She is active member of Bude Baptist Church. She is married to Trent Burris and has two sons, Taylor and Trey Bailey, and two step-sons, Austin and Gavin Burris.

Pippen is a 1997 graduate of Co-Lin. She received a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College and a doctorate of dentistry from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. She is a dentist and owner of Oak Lane Family Dentist in Monticello. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Dental Association and is also a member of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon honor society, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American College of Dentists. Pippen has served on numerous local civic organizations, councils and committees, and is past-president of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce. She is married to Lynn Pippen and they have two daughters, Kiley and Brenna Kate.

Hart is an accounting instructor at Co-Lin, manager of the college's bookstore and is a licensed CPA. He graduated from Co-Lin in 1970 and received a bachelor's degree from Delta State University and a master's degree in accounting from The University of Southern Mississippi. Hart has served as past-president of the Mississippi Association of College Stores and the Mississippi Simmental Breeders Association, and is a member of the American Institute of CPA's and the Mississippi Society of CPA's. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Brookhaven. Hart is married to Wanda Smith and they have three children, Mandy Case, Christy Lee, and Matthew Hart, and six grandchildren.

Southwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Board endows scholarship

The Southwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development (SWRC&D) Council recently endowed a scholarship with the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation.

The scholarship will be awarded in the fall of 2019 to a student completing his or her freshman year at Co-Lin majoring in a field relative to SWRC&D such as conservation (forestry, environmental, agriculture, etc.) or economic development (business, engineering, etc.) The recipient must have at least a 2.75 grade point average and be from the SWRC&D district, which consists of Adams, Amite, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pike, Walthall, and Wilkerson Counties.

Johnnie Ruth Carlisle, a council member of SWRC&D and the Co-Lin Foundation Board, was instrumental in establishing the scholarship. "SWRC&D is pleased to offer this scholarship to a Co-Lin student from our district," she said. "Conservation and development is so important in our area of the state, and we look forward to assisting students in pursuing their education for years to come."

The Co-Lin Foundation provides approximately $275,000 in scholarships to more than 200 Co-Lin students annually. For more information on this or other Foundation scholarships, or to make a contribution to the Co-Lin Foundation, visit www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation or call Angela Furr at (601)643-8313. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent of IRS regulations.

Nettles Scholarship Endowed | Foundation News

The Dr. Ronald E. and Rosie J. Nettles College Support Endowment was recently established with the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation through gifts from friends and colleagues of Nettles in honor of his recent retirement. The endowment was created to provide financial support to the three Co-Lin campuses for improvements that the president and/or executive director of the Foundation deem necessary.

Nettles retired as president of Co-Lin in June after a 33-year career in education. In addition to his 10 years as president, Nettles served as director of community and economic development on the Wesson Campus, dean of the Natchez Campus, and executive vice president of the college. During his tenure as president, Co-Lin saw growth in enrollment to an all-time high, a double increase in the Co-Lin Foundation's endowment to almost $9 million, instituted new instructional programs and services that increased student graduation rates, and construction of new buildings and other renovations on all three campuses.

"The establishment of this endowment in Dr. Nettles' honor is a testament to his leadership and the relationships he has with his former employees, colleagues and friends," Interim Executive Director of the Co-Lin Foundation Angela Furr said. "Dr. Nettles understands needs of the college sometimes fall outside the realm of the college's regular operating budget, and this endowment will provide support to fill those gaps as they arise." Nettles was honored by the gesture of his former colleagues and friends.

On hand for the presentation were from left, interim Co-Lin Foundation Director Angela Furr, Brandon Nettles, Jordan Nettles, Dr. Ronnie and Rosie Nettles, and Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon.

"I am very grateful that this endowment has been established at Co-Lin," he said. "It will allow the administration to have funds available to meet financial needs of the college such as campus improvement projects, instructional equipment for classrooms or for employee professional development. We believe the endowment will be beneficial to Co-Lin for many years to come."

Following retirement from Co-Lin, the Nettles family recently moved to Rankin County, where they have established R&R Nettles Consulting, LLC with a primary goal of providing a range of services for students, parents, schools, and colleges. In addition to Ronnie's career in higher education, Rosie Nettles has years of experience in the field as well. She worked for Copiah County Schools for more than 13 years, most recently as a psychometrist. She has also served as an elementary and middle school counselor in Natchez. She holds a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in college counseling and student personnel services from the University of Southern Mississippi.

"We are anxious to share the skills and knowledge we have accumulated during our careers in education," Ronnie said. In addition to consulting, Ronnie and Rosie are enjoying spending time at their camp on Lake Concordia in Ferriday, Louisiana, and with family in Adams and Franklin Counties. They plan to visit Co-Lin often.

Trap Shoot fundraiser for memorial scholarship

The seventh Annual "Trappin' for Trent" Memorial Trap Shoot was held on August 18. The event is held at the home of Larry Killingsworth and raises money in memory of Trent Killingsworth, a 2002 Co-Lin graduate, who passed away in 2004. Proceeds from the event go to the endowed scholarship in Trent's memory at Co-Lin. Pictured are the winners of the Men's Division, from left: Caleb Bowman, third place; Killingsworth; Harrison Hux, first place; Kacey Falvey; and second place winner Jonathon Smith.

Madam President

Dr. Jane Hulon is the eighth president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the first woman to hold the position. She is the third woman to become president of a Mississippi community college, following Dr. Mary Graham, current president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Dr. Vivian M. Presley, retired president of Coahoma Community College.

While only having been in office for a few months, Hulon is off to a running start, setting goals for expanding and improving opportunities for students, employees, facilities, economic development, and fundraising.

"Student Success is priority for the college," Hulon said. "It drives the work that we all do. Co-Lin is committed to offering a variety of programs and services to allow students to reach their educational goals. It is gratifying to have seen the college receive state and national recognition for the efforts of many dedicated faculty and staff working tirelessly to serve our student body. As president, I could not be more proud of the work that our Co-Lin team does on behalf of students."

While she is excited for the opportunity to lead the college in a presidential capacity, Hulon is quick to mention the leaders who came before her, paving the way for her success. "Dr. Thames, Dr. Garner, and Dr. Nettles have been extraordinary leaders and all have played a role in the progress that has been made at Co-Lin," she said. "There are many great things happening at Co-Lin, and I have plans for even more progress to take place over the course of this year."

Hulon has been employed at Co-Lin for sixteen years,

Former Co-Lin presidents, Nettles, Thames, and Garner with Dr. Hulon.

serving for the past 10 years at the vice president's level, most recently serving as vice president of the Wesson campus in which she supervised all instructional and instructional support programs located on the Wesson Campus and worked closely with the leadership at the Natchez Campus and Simpson County Center. In addition, she was responsible for overseeing the SACSCOC accreditation process for the institution. Her experience includes academic, career-technical, student services, institutional development, information technology, business services, athletics, workforce, and other non-credit areas.

In past positions at Co-Lin, she has served as the vice president of instructional services, academic dean, and director of planning and research. She has also held instructional, research, and administrative positions at several other institutions including East Mississippi Community College, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Department of Education, Jones County Junior College, and Jones County Schools.

Dr. Hulon with sons Will (left) and Drew.

Hulon attended Jones County Junior College and received both a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Southern Mississippi. She earned her Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Mississippi State University.

She is a member of numerous organizations including the Mississippi Academic Officers Association (Past-President), the Mississippi Association of Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees, American Association of University Women, Wesson Chamber of Commerce (Past- Member, Board of Directors), Wesson Garden Club, and the Brookhaven/Lincoln County Rotary Club. She has participated in the Education Policy Fellowship Program, Leadership Jones County, and Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA), and is a past recipient of Co-Lin's High Performance Award, the Phi Theta Kappa Go Getter Award, the Ann Bradberry Award, the Phi Theta Kappa National Distinguished Administrator Award, and Wesson Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator Award.

Dr. Hulon was married to the late Jim Hulon and is the mother of two sons, Will, a sophomore at Co-Lin majoring in engineering, and Drew, a senior at Wesson Attendance Center. She and her sons are members of Zion Hill Baptist Church, where she serves as a member of the Youth Committee.

"This is an exciting time at Co-Lin, and I am thrilled to lead the college as president. Co-Lin is a special place, and I am looking forward to building on our success of the past 90 years."

Overcoming The Odds

by Anna Grider

Since the age of 11, Tayla Blount has battled addiction, been in and out of prison and struggled to keep her life on track. Now, this past May, at the age of 28, Blount received her GED, graduated from the Co-Lin Precision Machinery program and has been hired as a Transition Coordinator with Doll's House in Brookhaven.

How does someone addicted to crystal meth with no high school diploma overcome such tremendous odds? For Blount it took the right people, the right motivation and the Lord.

After her release from prison in 2014, Blount was looking for a way to get back to her old lifestyle. "But God had different plans and he intervened," Blount said.

Blount was sent to live with Johnnie and Stephanie Turner at the Darlene Slater Rehabilitation Center for Women in Brookhaven, better known as "Doll's House." Named after Stephanie Turner's mother, Darlene "Doll" Slater, the Turners co-founded and continue to co-direct the Doll's House. Slater was passionate about aiding women struggling to regain control over their lives and equipping them for independence. Carrying on Slater's legacy and incorporating their own mission work for prison inmates and children, the Turners opened Doll's House on May 21, 2010.

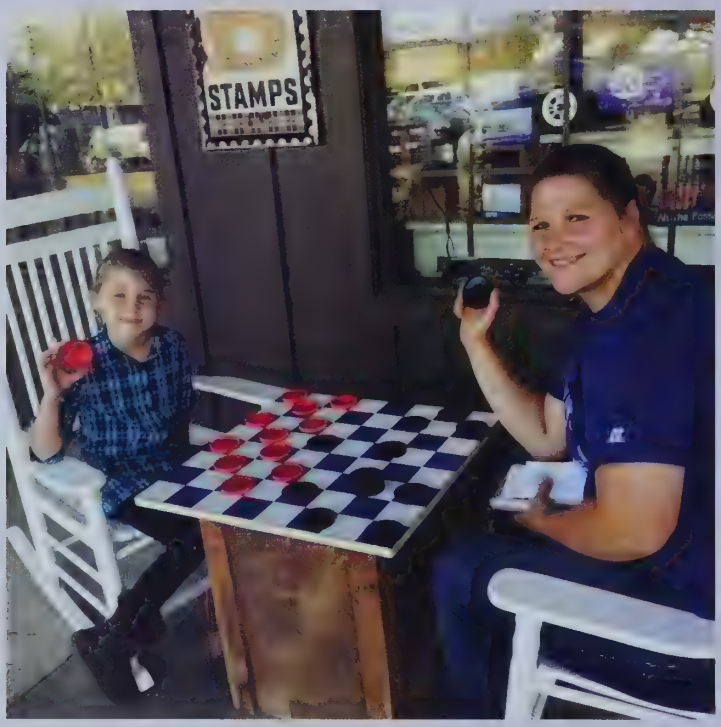
"The mission of the Doll's House is to disciple women while providing a transitional housing alternative as the wounds of the little girl in every woman are healed. Our primary focus is based on the principle of deliverance, healing and empowerment," Turner said. "A multitude of skills are taught to empower the women we encounter, and lead them to self-sufficiency, and ultimately facilitate the possible reunification of clients with their children and families."

When Blount was sent to the Turners in 2014, she wanted to be anywhere but Doll's House and sought to do only what was needed in order to leave. However, the Lord, the Turner's, and Blount's parole officer had something else in mind.

"They were able to see more in me than I saw in myself," Blount said. "About a year in, I started seeing what I didn't see and what Ms. Stephanie was showing me: who I really was and what I was doing."

What did it take for the light to switch? It took a lot of tough love from Turner and eventually it took the right motivation. The day Blount's daughter, Peyton, then four years old, showed up to Doll's House, Blount described herself as being "hot" and "mad." She was angry at Peyton's caretakers for failing to provide for her, which had in turn led Peyton to arriving at the center.

While Doll's House focuses on reuniting and preparing



women to go back to their children and families, it was never part of the plan to allow children to stay at the home. That was until Peyton showed up, looked Turner in the eyes and said, "Why can't I stay here? I didn't do anything." For Turner, this moment left her speechless and she describes this image and day as one she will never forget.

Even still, through the mindset of an addict, Blount admits she wasn't ready to change. "Peyton came into this world to a drug addict. I was an addict when I birthed her and my mindset was that no one was going to have her if I couldn't have her. But I couldn't let the dope go either. I loved her, I just didn't know how to love her. I didn't know how to love myself," Blount said. "It's nothing but by the grace of God that the Lord was going to take those memories from Peyton as far as the east is from the west and he has."

Johnnie and Stephanie Turner (left) with Blount's instructor Bo Johnson and Peyton at her Co-Lin gradution.

After Peyton showed up to Doll's House that day, Blount said she then began to learn how to be a mother. While Peyton wouldn't come to live with her at Doll's House for another year, Blount began to have more interactions with her daughter and slowly but surely, her priorities began to change. Since then, Peyton and Blount have been reunited and are sharing a room together at the home.

During this time, Blount was also working hard to obtain her GED at Co-Lin. It took Blount coming back four times to finally find the right motivation to work – two pictures of her daughter taped in her binder – a visual of what was at stake.

Having gone through the motions for two years at Doll's House, the light had officially and finally switched with Tayla Blount and nothing was going to stop her. "I looked at her (Peyton) and knew I didn't want her to be like me," Blount said.

Blount enrolled in the Precision Machining program and graduated from Co-Lin this past May. During her time at Co-Lin, Blount was involved in and completed the Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training Program (MI-BEST). She was also inducted into the National Technical Honors Society in 2017. In order to help herself and her daughter succeed in life, Blount knew she needed a degree that she could always fall back on.

Blount's former teacher, Bo Johnson, said "Tayla exemplifies someone with great character. She is not only a witness to her testimony, but a witness to others who see her great work ethic, the urging desire to complete the task at hand, and to achieve the goals she has set."

Following graduation, Blount has taken a position with Doll's House and will serve as Transition Coordinator. Blount has completed her 90-day training for the position and has already transitioned her first client, a woman who, like Blount, is currently working on her GED at Co-Lin.

Who better to work with these women, help them adjust to life at Doll's House, encourage them in the opportunities available for them and prepare them for success in life than Tayla Blount? "By the time I enrolled in Co-Lin as a college student, I had already made up my mind that I wanted to help women," Blount said. Feeling God's call to this position Blount added, "My passion is to help women. My career choice is to do just that."

In addition to helping the women that come through Doll's House, Blount will be joining Turner in teaching transition classes to inmates at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility. "She is going to be changing these lives forever," Turner stated.

Since her beginnings at Doll's House four years ago, Blount has overcome insurmountable odds, as well as her fears and shame surrounding her story. She has begun to share her past as a way to help, heal and inspire others. Now, as a Co-Lin graduate working as the Transition Coordinator at Doll's House, Blount will continue to touch lives and inspire many for years to come.

Foundation News | Mathis scholarship endowed

Alison Mathis

Bettye Boutwell of Wesson recently endowed the Lauri Alison Boutwell Mathis Memorial Scholarship with the Co-Lin Foundation.

The scholarship was established in memory of Boutwell's daughter, Alison, who passed away on July 29, 2017 after a brief illness. Mathis was a 1996 graduate of the associate degree nursing program at Co-Lin where she was also an honor student. She later graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi. Mathis was an employee of Hardy Wilson Hospital and Copiah County Medical Center for 19 years as a staff nurse, director of surgery and L&D services, medical-surgical nurse manager, emergency coordinator, and Chief Nursing Officer.

Mathis enjoyed being a wife to Christopher Michael Mathis and mother to Katherine Blair Mathis. She was also a member of Beauregard United Methodist Church. A friend described her as someone who "was always smiling and always a leader. She always had an encouraging word to give."

Mathis' parents were also Co-Lin graduates. Her mother, Bettye Boutwell was a 1959 graduate where she was also head Colette. Her father, William Boutwell, class of 1958, was a member of the football team.

"We're so grateful to the Boutwell family for their generous gift in establishing this scholarship in Alison's memory," Angela Furr, interim executive director of the Foundation said. "The impact of this scholarship and Alison's legacy will live on for many years."

Contributions to the Lauri Alison Boutwell Mathis Memorial Scholarship may be sent to the Co-Lin Foundation, P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191.

Bettye Boutwell and Angela Furr

YOU *can make a difference for Co-Lin!*

Gifts from alumni and friends like you make a difference in the lives of students.

Consider supporting your college with a gift today!

Please don't wait. Do it now.

"For generations, students have benefitted from the generosity of the Co-Lin Foundation. Giving will continue to insure these benefits for the generations to come. Please do your part today."

- Andrew Calvit ('76)
Co-Lin Foundation Board President

Yes! *I want to support Co-Lin*

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

Email: _____

#BackThePack

Enclosed is my gift of $_____ payable to Co-Lin Foundation
If you work for a matching gift company, which one?

_____

Please use my gift for:

- ❑ Where it is most needed
- ❑ Add my gift to _____ Scholarship fund
- ❑ Other _____ (designate a sport, program or need)

The Co-Lin Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent of IRS regulations.

Co-Lin Foundation, P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191

The Friends Group from the class of 1963-64 had their 9th annual get-together on August 10 at Porches in Wesson. Those enjoying the great food and fun together were: front row, Ellis Perkins, Howard Moak, Landal Moak, Barbara Smith, Norma Hammill, and second row; Miller Hammill, Barto Laird, Johnny Cook, Rome Fuller, Bobby Boone, Linda Cook, Rudy McGehee, and Connie Evans.

The Co-Lin Band and Colette Alumni Chapter recently volunteered at the annual band camp cookout following the week-long camp on the Wesson Campus. Those who served were from left, Bettye Boutwell, Mark Hamilton, Heather Smith, Becky Yarbrough, Johnnie Ruth Carlisle, Pam Maddox Roberts, Jeffrey Kellum, Charlie McCall, Becky and Jim Nix, and Larry Greer.

Where are they now?

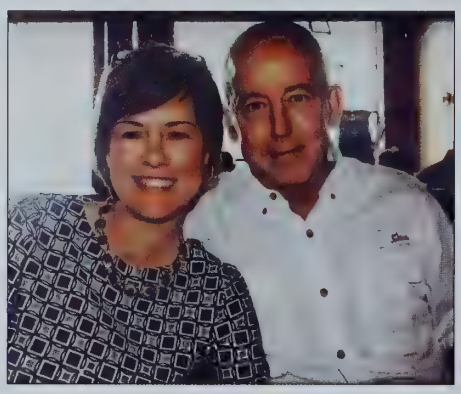
Deborah and Mark Hennington

Deborah Brown Hennington ('82) and Mark Hennington ('79) met at a back-to-school street dance in 1977 when she was starting 9th grade at Co-Lin High School and he was beginning his freshman year at the college. They began dating that year and have now been married for 34 years.

While at Co-Lin, Mark served as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa. He was selected as a Who's Who among students in American Junior Colleges. Mark was also involved with Alpha Omega Science Club and served as publicity chair for the group. Deborah was secretary of the Alpha Omega Science Club and was also selected as a Co-Lin Beauty.

After graduating from Co-Lin as a pre-med major, Mark went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in microbiology, and worked on a master's degree at the University of Southern Mississippi. He later received his doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

Deborah went on to graduate from Co-Lin with a pre-nursing degree, followed by a degree from the University of



I want to be a part of Co-Lin Alumni!

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GRAD YEAR: _____ BIRTHDAY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SPOUSE: _____

GRAD YEAR: _____ BIRTHDAY: _____

- ❑ **Individual Membership ($25)**
- ❑ **Joint Membership ($40)**
- ❑ **Lifetime Membership ($250)**

Amount Enclosed $_____
Payable to Co-Lin Alumni Association

Please mail to;
Co-Lin Alumni Association
P.O. Box 649,
Wesson, MS 39191

(Visit www.colin.edu alumni website to pay by credit card)

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mississippi School of Nursing. The two were married in 1984 after she graduated while he was working on his doctorate.

Deborah worked as a pediatric nurse at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. She later worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina in pre-admission certification and peer review. Mark completed his general surgery residency at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill and stayed an additional three years to complete a Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship.

In 1994, the couple moved to London for six months where he did additional training at Royal Brompton Hospital in pediatric heart surgery before landing in Hickory, North Carolina where they still reside. Mark started his private practice work at Hickory Heart, Lung, and Vascular Associates where he has continued to work for 23 years as a thoracic and cardiac surgeon. Deborah worked for a private practice orthopedic surgeon as an office nurse and office manager before deciding to be a stay-at-home mom. The Henningtons have four children, Brett, Erin, Anna, and Ally.

Welcome

New Members of the Big Wolf Club

Varsity Club
Michelle Greer

Coach's Club
WM Food Services, Inc.
(Ken Dixon)
Don Underwood
Troy Greer

Silver Wolf
Harvey Bozeman
Phil and Christie Hull

Join the BIG WOLF CLUB!

A strong athletic program needs strong support from alumni, parents, and friends. When you support Co-Lin Athletics, you'll enjoy a number of exclusive, members-only benefits. Your generosity will also help provide our student-athletics with the best intercollegiate sports experience possible.

The Co-Lin Foundation is introducing the Big Wolf Club this fall, featuring incentives and levels of participation in support of Co-Lin Athletics. For more information, visit www.colin.edu/foundation or contact Angela Furr at 601-643-8313.

I would like to support Co-Lin Athletics by making a donation to the Big Wolf Club.

Please designate my donation of

____ $10,000	____ $1,000	____ $100
____ $5,000	____ $500	____ $50
____ $2,500	____ $250	____ Other

Name: _____

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State: _____ Zip Code: _____

- ❑ General Athletics
- ❑ Baseball
- ❑ Basketball
- ❑ Football
- ❑ Golf
- ❑ Softball
- ❑ Tennis

Mail to the Co-Lin Foundation, P. O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191

Gifts to The Big Wolf Club, through the Co-Lin Foundation, are tax-deductible to the full extent of federal and state tax laws.

tracking the classes

Congratulations

Britt

Gene "Moochie Britt ('70) recently retired from coaching basketball after 45 years. Britt played one season for Co-Lin, and was the basketball coach at Loyd Star for the last 22 years. He is a member of the Co-Lin Sports Hall of Fame.

Christi Terrell ('01) was named Loyd Star's head women's basketball coach.

Speeg

Samantha Speeg ('03) was named Mississippi's ACT Postsecondary Champion. She serves as director of enrollment services at Co-Lin.

Different

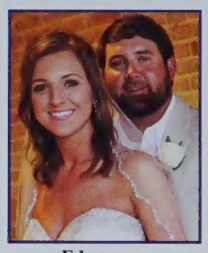
Drew Different ('11) was named the first band director for Bogue Chitto Attendance Center. Different serves on the Band and Colette Alumni Chapter board of directors.

Hauer

Anthony Hauer (attended) was elected to the board of directors of the International Association of Maritime and port Executives (IAMPE). Hauer serves as the Port director of Natchez Adams County Port Commission and is the owner/operator of Hauer Farm Services.

Wedding Bells

Kimmie Kolpek ('12) married Jack Edmonson on July 14, 2018. Jack is an assistant baseball coach at Co-Lin.


Edmonson

Kaitlin Ann Moak ('13) married Justen Taylor Ashley on March 10, 2018.

Bradi Davis ('13) married **James White (attended)** on July 28, 2018.

Ashley

Leah Michelle Greer ('14) married **Lucas Cade Calvert** on June 30, 2018. Leah is the College Recruiter and Lucas is the Sports Information Coordinator for Co-Lin.

Calvert

Devin Neal ('14) married Kortni Dees on March 10, 2018.

Caroleah Brister ('15) married **Alton Everett ('12)** on December 9, 2017.

Sarah Renee' Martinez ('15) married **Lucas Stephen Burris ('17)** on April 7, 2018.

Anna Clair Mitchell ('15) married **Bryce Alan Sharp ('13)** on March 10, 2018.

Smith

Greta Carley ('16) married **Zachary Lee Smith** on August 4, 2018.

Markie Case (attending) married **James King ('16 and '17)** on January 20, 2018.

Tawana Fairman married **Marshall Graham, Jr. (attended)** on June 24, 2018.

Paige Smith married **Christopher Viramontez Jr. (attended)** on September 22, 2018.

New Arrivals

Howard

Marc and **Meleah Brown Howard ('08)** are proud parents of Hayes Walker Howard, born September 14, 2017. Meleah is the head softball coach at Co-Lin.

Henderson

Shane and **Ashley ('02) Henderson** are proud parents of twins, Jackson "Jack" Kyle and Thomas "Tip" Ford, born December 2, 2017.

Ryan and **Dana Belanger (both '05)** are proud parents of Brett Thomas Belanger, born April 17, 2018.

Thompson

Tyler ('06) and **Emily Thompson ('06)** are proud parents of Merritt Campbell, born on May 22, 2018.

Little

Stephen and **Brittany Little ('08)** are proud parents of Charlotte Rose, born on July 1, 2018.

Trey and **Amanda Burke Fischer ('10)** are proud parents of Luke Presley, born December 21, 2017.

Deer

Matt and **Hayley Hall Deer ('11)** are proud parents of Carson William, born April 11, 2018. Proud grandmother is **Erin Likens**, who

tracking the classes

serves as the purchasing agent for the college.

Halley

Christopher ('11) and **Shelly Halley ('14)** are proud parents of Jaudon Case, born March 13, 2018.

Jordan ('12) and Ben **Sticker** are proud parents of Addie Claire, born November 29, 2017.

Matthew ('12) and **Scarlett Hart** are proud parents of Nora Hadley, born on June 5, 2018. Scarlett is the Public Relations Coordinator at Co-Lin. Proud grandparents are Charles and Wanda Hart, **Charles** is currently the bookstore manager for Co-Lin and a Foundation Board member, and Wanda is a retired instructor.

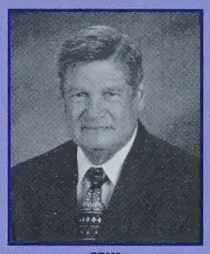
Hart

Send your alumni news and photos to Anna Grider, PO Box 649 Wesson, MS 39191 or e-mail to anna.grider@colin.edu. Please provide class year(s) and a phone number for verification.

In Memoriam

Cole

Albritton


Hill

Allen

Wilma Cole ('36) passed away on January 8, 2018. She was Alumna of the Year in 2002.

Alene Albritton ('39) passed away on Feb. 5, 2018. She was a life member of the Alumni Association and a member of the Sports Hall of Fame.

Lucille Hodges Bennett ('40) passed away in November 2017.

Charles Maris ('48) passed away on June 28, 2018

Barbara Sojourner ('54) passed away on December 23, 2017.

Wilma Doris Smith Lambert ('55) passed away on January 25, 2018.

William "Bud" Kirkpatrick ('56) passed away on May 2018.

Henry Peavey ('58) passed away on December 19, 2017.

Sonny Hill ('59) passed away on June 19, 2018. Sonny was a member of the Sports Hall of Fame and was married to the late Charlotte Hill, former executive director of the Co-Lin Foundation.

Harold "Buzzy" Havard Clopton III ('65) passed away December 28, 2017.

Gail Price Herring ('85) passed away on July 5, 2018.

Eric Laquan Smith ('93) passed away November 9, 2017.

Doya Langston ('02) passed away in August of 2018. She was a member of the Blue Wave Show Band.

Michael Hall ('03) passed away August 19, 2018.

Jacob Anthony Greer ('06) passed away June 6, 2018.

Corey Stephen Adams ('13) passed away on April 28, 2018.

Navlean McDuffey Pittman ('14) passed away on January 20, 2018.

Regan Nicole Gagliardi ('16) passed away on August 8, 2018.

Virgil Ray Brawley, Jr. (attended) passed away June 22, 2018.

Douglas Shaw (attended) passed away on Feb. 11, 2018.

Ann Ray Boyd (attended) passed away on December 18, 2017.

Gerald Price Wilson ('51) passed away on December 18, 2017. He played as quarterback for the Co-Lin football team.

Stephen "Cory" Holden (attended) passed away on December 13, 2017.

Nancy Spencer (attended) passed away on February 1, 2018.

Robert Edward 'Eddie' Douglas (attended) passed away on May 13, 2018.

Eric Levon Bridges, Sr. (attended) passed away on February 10, 2018.

Dean White (attended) passed away on July 19, 2018.

Frances Lee Thetford Del Rosso (attended) passed away on March 9, 2018.

Donis Rhea Weeks Allen (attended) passed away on July 16, 2018.

Kathy Hillard Clay, passed away on June 5, 2018. Kathy was a long time employee of Co-Lin. Her husband, Travis Clay, currently works in the maintenance department at Co-Lin.

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